OFFICE OF THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
19 APR. 1922
TO H. H. THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE

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Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar Bahadur, G.C.S.I., G.B.E.,

His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore,

Mysore

May it please your Highness,

In the Kanteerava of Mangalore, I read several Charges in the Mysore administration in a communicated article. I do not know how far they are true. Though some are desirable, others are not so. I was at one time a great advocate of democracy. Later events have begun to show that neither India nor Mysore is fit for democracy. Democracy has degenerated into mobocracy. Many people do not know their own interests. Even when they know, they have no power to exercise their discretion independently. They have not a firm decision of character. They do not know how to use their votes justly and impartially. Once John Stuart Mill, the greatest political philosopher of Europe was prevailed upon by his friends to stand for election to the House of Commons. He was asked to make a speech asking for votes. He did so. In doing this, he told the electors not to be swayed by friendship, relationship or any other ships which interfere with the just dictates of their conscience. He told them that if they give their votes to persons of no education, no insight into human nature, no capacity for work, no sense of duty, no decision of character to translate ideas of public

good into practice, they will be guilty of the betrayal of high trust and responsibility for which they will have to be answerable to both God and man. On this one of his opponents appealed to the lowest passions of the electors and read a passage from one of his books in which he had characterised the electors as a pack of men who did not know how to exercise their duties as voters and electors when this passage was read, one of the electors asked him whether he was the author of the passage in question On this Sir John Stuart Mill said that he was the author of the passage, that he did not express his opinion of the electors with half so much force as he should have done; that the majority of the electors had no sense of responsibility, He gave numerous instances of it. He said that such men were the enemies of the country, that both they and the country suffer by their acts of omission and commission, that even if they escape punishment here, they will never obtain pardon from God from whom nothing can be concealed This altered the situation. They all said "This is an honest man. He is not afraid to speak his mind, though it gives us offence. It is such men that will serve the country heroically. We shall all give our votes to him"

The Mysore electors have not come to this frame of mind. The non-success of the election of a competent Vice president in Mysore and of the election of President and Vice President in Bangalore shows how incompetent even our so-called educated electors in Mysore are. I think that some very important appointments in Municipal Councils

and Local Board should not, in the interest of local self govern ment, be thrown open to election. These appointments are no other than those of Presidents Even some of the Dewans have thrown themselves into the whirl-pool of racial and sectarial prejudices Your Highness is the one being who can be safely trusted with such responsible appointments. I say this not out of any homage due to Your Highness' exalted position, but out of respect for that decision of character which Your Highness has been showing from time to time in elimina ting undesirable characters from responsible positions with a decision of character which men of the stamp of C. Rangacharlu, Chentsal Rao, Gladstone and Napoleon alone could show. The position of the President of the Mysore Municipality is one of this kind The majority of the Municipal Councillors here do not know how to serve the rate payers and Your ~~Ness~~ Highness who has been working so hard for the Sanitary interests of the City. If the election of the President is left to them, Mysore would be converted into a hell. I have no respect for the arbitrary conduct of Mr. Srikanteswara Iyer when he was the private secretary to Sir Seshadriyer. I saw his work as the President of the Municipal Council, Mysore, I now see that he is a highly competent man and that it is impossible to find out for the post a more disinterested, a more loyal, a more competent, a better informed, and a more capable gentleman for the honorarium we give him.

I think Mysore would benefit a great deal [illegible] your Highness
[illegible] an extension of service for two or three years more.
Hoping that your Highness will kindly excuse [illegible]
I have taken in making the suggestions,

I beg to remain

Mysore
& 15th April 1929

with utmost esteem and respect
Your Highness'
most humble and loyal
servant

M. Venkata Krishnayya